

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SINGAP 01973 220224Z

13

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /017 W

----- 041321

R 220136Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5116

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 1973

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, SN

SUBJECT: POST RELATIONSHIP WITH AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

REF: STATE 094266

1. THE EMBASSY WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LOCAL AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY SINCE IT HAS, IN OUR VIEW, BEEN GENERALLY FRUITFUL. EMBASSY HAS CLOSE AND EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH SINGAPORE AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (ABC). ALTHOUGH FOR HISTORICAL REASONS THIS ORGANIZATION DOES NOT CALL ITSELF AN AMCHAM, IT IS AFFILIATED WITH U.S. CHAMBER AND RECENTLY BECAME A MEMBER OF ASIA-PACIFIC COUNCIL OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS (APCAC).

2. EMBASSY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR IS EX OFFICIO MEMBER OF ABC BOARD. IN ADDITION, ABC CONFERS HONORARY MEMBERSHIP ON AMBASSADOR, DCM, AND MANY OTHER EMBASSY AND TRADE CENTER OFFICERS. PAO SERVES ON ABC PROGRAM COMMITTEE, AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHE AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF ABC BRIEFING COMMITTEE.

3. AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF HOLD REGULAR PERIODIC MEETINGS WITH ABC MEMBERS AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. THESE MEETINGS ARE RELATIVELY UNSTRUCTURED, AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IS ENCOURAGED.

4. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY PARTICIPATES IN AND TAKES ITS TURN HOSTING JOINT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE ABC  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SINGAP 01973 220224Z

AND GOS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD. FOCUS OF THESE

MEETINGS IS PRIMARILY ON MATTERS AFFECTING OPERATIONS  
OF U.S. FIRMS MANUFACTURING IN SINGAPORE.

5. EMBASSY, REGIONAL TRADE CENTER AND ABC  
ARE COLLABORATING TO ORGANIZE A BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT  
AT TRADE CENTER FROM MAY 29 - JUNE 6. THIS EVENT WILL  
FEATURE CONTRIBUTIONS OF U.S. FIRMS TO TRADE AND  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SINGAPORE AND THE REGION.  
RESPONDING TO AN APPEAL FROM THE ABC AND THE AMBASSADOR,  
SOME ONE HUNDRED FIRMS HAVE THUS FAR CONTRIBUTED OVER  
US\$10,000 TO DEFRAY COSTS OF ORGANIZING THIS EXHIBITION.  
A NUMBER OF FIRMS HAVE ALSO COMMITTED TO PROVIDE  
APPROPRIATE EXHIBITS TO THIS EVENT. ABC WAS ALSO A  
STRONG SUPPORTER OF TRADE CENTER AT RECENT APCAC  
MEETING IN HONG KONG.

6. ON NEGATIVE SIDE, ABC HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN  
ORIENTED TOWARDS MANUFACTURING, WITH ABC OFFICERS  
OFTEN REPRESENTING LARGE OIGIREFINERS (E.G., MOBIL,  
AMOCO). CONSEQUENTLY, ABC HAS NOT TO DATE SHOWN MUCH  
INTEREST IN TRADE PROMOTION, DESPITE FACT THAT VAST  
MAJORITY OF U.S. FIRMS IN SINGAPORE ARE ENGAGED IN  
REGIONAL SALES AND DISTRIBUTION RATHER THAN MANUFACTURING.  
CONSEQUENTLY, ABC GENERALLY REFERS ALL INFORMATIONAL  
REQUESTS FROM U.S. BUSINESS TO THE EMBASSY. EMBASSY  
PREPARES LIST OF U.S. FIRMS IN SINGAPORE AND OTHER  
COMMERCIAL MATERIAL (E.G. "HOW TO SET UP A BUSINESS  
IN SINGAPORE", AND "INFORMATION ON SINGAPORE TAXES")  
WITHOUT ASSISTANCE FROM ABC. ABC DOES NOT ASSIST IN  
DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE OPPORTUNITIES AND MAJOR PROJECTS  
INFORMATION, NOR DOES IT PROVIDE WTDR-TYPE INFORMATION.  
IT HAS NOT SHOWN INTEREST IN SUPPORTING EMBASSY-  
SPONSORED IN-STORE PROMOTIONS OR REGIONAL OFFSITE  
EXHIBITS. DESPITE EMBASSY'S PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS, SOME  
ABC MEMBERS SEEM UNAWARE OF OR DISINTERESTED IN RESOURCES  
EMBASSY AND TRADE CENTER HAVE AVAILABLE (E.G., BETWEEN-  
SHOW PROMOTIONS, COMMERCIAL LIBRARY, MARKET RESEARCH).  
ABC ALSO HAS NOT ACTED ON SUGGESTION BY PREVIOUS  
AMBASSADOR THAT IT FORM TRADE PROMOTION COMMITTEE.  
EMBASSY FEELS THIS LACK OF INTEREST IN TRADE PROMOTION  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SINGAP 01973 220224Z

MAY BE IN PART A MATTER OF PERSONALITIES, AND COULD  
THEREFORE CHANGE GRADUALLY IN TIME.

7. ALTHOUGH ABC AND EMBASSY ARE NOT ALWAYS  
OF ONE MIND ON ALL MATTERS, WE BELIEVE OUR WORKING  
RELATIONSHIP IS MOST SATISFACTORY, AND ELEMENTS OF  
IT PERHAPS WORTHY OF EMULATION BY OTHER POSTS.  
HOLDRIDGE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SINGAP01973  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** PER SINGAPORE 2120  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760152-0438  
**From:** SINGAPORE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760433/aaaabbwb.tel  
**Line Count:** 115  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 94266  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POST RELATIONSHIP WITH AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE  
**TAGS:** BGEN, SN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006